

# Business Newsletter . . .

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## NEW FACILITIES AND EXPANSIONS

Hooker Chemical (whose stockholders have approved consolidation with Shea and change of company's name from Hooker Electrochemical to Hooker Chemical) will add another \$1 million worth of sodium chlorate capacity at its Columbus, Miss., plant. Although sodium chlorate is used for weed killing and cotton defoliation, bulk of new production will go to pulp and paper industry. When this expansion is finished, capacity will be more than 24,000 tons a year. Early this month capacity increase authorized in late 1956 will go on stream.

A York, Pa., feed firm, Hespenheide & Thompson, Inc., has installed facilities for mixing and distributing Morea liquid feed supplement for livestock. It thereby becomes the first eastern mixer-distributor signed up by U. S. Industrial Chemicals, which makes the premix and markets it in certain areas under an agreement with Feed Service Corp.

Diamond Alkali's agricultural chemicals affiliate in Mexico has completed a plant at Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. The affiliate, Insecticidas Diamond del Pacifico, S. A., de C. V., already operates a plant in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico. Sales of chemicals produced in the new plant will be handled by Agro Quimico del Pacifico, S. A.

Union Carbide will go ahead with construction of a technical service center at Eastview, N. Y. In February, company held up construction to study plans further. Agricultural chemicals will be among industries to get technical service from the new center. The 85,000-sq.-ft. laboratory building will house 53 individual laboratory units. Completion is expected by early 1960.

Monsanto is starting construction of a private road to connect its elemental phosphorus plant at Soda Springs, Idaho, and its phosphate mine 11 miles away. Road will be designed to accommodate special carriers that can haul 75 tons of ore per load, three times the load possible with present equipment.

Allied has opened a combined sales office, laboratory, and warehouse in Atlanta, Ga., to service Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee customers of its National Aniline and General Chemical Divisions.

Hercules Powder has a new unit at Parlin, N. J., that increases its daily production of concentrated nitric acid by 50 tons, for a total daily output of 200 tons. Unit also makes it possible to produce a 99% concentrate of nitric acid in normal production, compared to the conventional 97% concentrate. Improvement is made possible by use of magnesium nitrate instead of sulfuric acid as the desiccant, and tray or plate towers instead of packed towers.

Hercules has also expanded facilities at Harbor Beach, Mich., plant of its Huron Milling Division to accommodate expanded bakery industry research and customer service facilities. Donald K. Dubois has been named manager of bakery services. Expansion was prompted by progress with Vicrum, company's new form of vital wheat gluten which the bakery industry uses to improve quality of yeast-raised products.

## OLIN MATHIESON COMPLETES REORGANIZATION

Agricultural and phosphate chemicals operations of Olin Mathieson will come under the newly organized chemicals division, with Vice President Edward Block heading it. Also in the chemicals division will be industrial and organic chemicals operations. This reorganization is

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part of the company's regrouping of 11 former divisions into four new ones. The other three new ones are metals, packaging, and energy. The Squibb, Winchester-Western, and International divisions remain unchanged.

## PRODUCT NEWS

Eleven hundred homes being built by the Navy at Beaufort, S. C., should be termite-free, thanks to chlordan pretreatment of the lots. Shaef Chemical, Savannah, Ga., is spraying the lots with a minimum of 1 gallon of 2% insecticide emulsion per 10 square feet of ground. Cost of the treatment is somewhere between 7 and 12 cents per square foot. Termites abound in the area, but Shaef Chemical says pretreatment will protect dwellings indefinitely against termite damage.

AAgrunol Chemical Works, Ltd., the Dutch firm that introduced AAbulba, AAgrano, and AAventa mercury fungicides, announces it has another which it calls 473. Chemically, 473 is methyl mercury pentachlorophenolate. It is only slightly volatile, has no objectionable odor, and is said to be less phytotoxic than other products. Company says its control of wheat bunt is outstanding, and that its control of loose smut of wheat is equal to, if not better than, that provided by other mercury compounds.

## CHEMICALS IN THE AIR

Transland Aircraft is in full production with its Swathmaster aerial application unit, with the first units to be shipped this month. The unit, which attaches to the Stearman PT-17 and is being considered for other aircraft, makes it possible for one plane to dust, spray, seed, or fertilize without loss of time for equipment change-over. Pilot can reset the control in the air or on the ground in a few seconds. Unit puts down a swath 33 to 100 feet wide, depending on the amount of foliage to be covered; flow rates are limited only by density of dry materials and viscosity of liquids. Company will lend 16 mm. sound and color film on the Swathmaster to interested groups.

American Shippers is offering its ParcelAir service to the fertilizer and farm chemical industry. The service provides one- to three-day air delivery to any town in the country at rates comparable to those for surface shipment. Weight limit on packages is 40 pounds. ParcelAir says it will ship a 20-pound package from Los Angeles to New York for \$4.90.

## COLOR-CODED TANK CARS

U. S. Industrial Chemicals will color-code its fleet of 900 tank cars during the next few years. Domes of ammonia cars will get bright yellow paint, those of sulfuric acid black, those of phosphatic fertilizer solutions orange, and those of nitrogen fertilizer solutions red. Bodies of all cars will have clean-cut black on light gray with the company's traditional U.S.I. oval in black and red.

## TWO WAYS TO USE SURPLUSES

Du Pont has reduced the price for L-lysine from \$12 to \$8.00 a pound in the hope of broadening the market for it. It suggests supplementation of wheat for export to protein-hungry nations such as those in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Wheat is deficient in this amino acid. Supplementing wheat with synthetic lysine would raise its nutritional quality to a point approaching that of milk, cheese, and

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meat. Du Pont believes lysine supplementation would help to open the door to new export markets for the U. S. wheat surplus.

For the corn surplus, James W. Evans of American Maize-Products, speaking for the Corn Industries Research Foundation before the Senate Agriculture Committee, recommended a research program that would cost some \$6.5 million. It would take that amount, he said, to pursue three major potential uses for corn starch—as an integral part of paper, in the metallurgical industries, and in insecticide and defoliating formulations. Those three projects could lead to an annual consumption of 410 million bushels of surplus corn.

#### GIBBERELLIN GRAPES GO TO MARKET

The first Thompson seedless grapes stimulated with gibberellins on a commercial basis went to market in New York late last month. They commanded an average price of \$8.80 per 25-pound lug, while others averaged \$5.78. New York buyers were enthusiastic, Merck & Co. reports, over the larger size and higher over-all quality of those that had been treated with Gibrel. Grapes were grown in Coachella Valley of California. University of California researchers have found that gibberellins on navel oranges increase juice content 9% and vitamin C content 13%.

#### HOLDING PRICE LINE

Allied's Nitrogen Division announces that prices of Arcadian nitrogen solutions and anhydrous ammonia for fertilizer manufacturing will be the same from now until Dec. 31 as they have been during the Jan. 1 to June 30 period. Delivered price will be equalized against competitive producing points, however.

#### MEETINGS

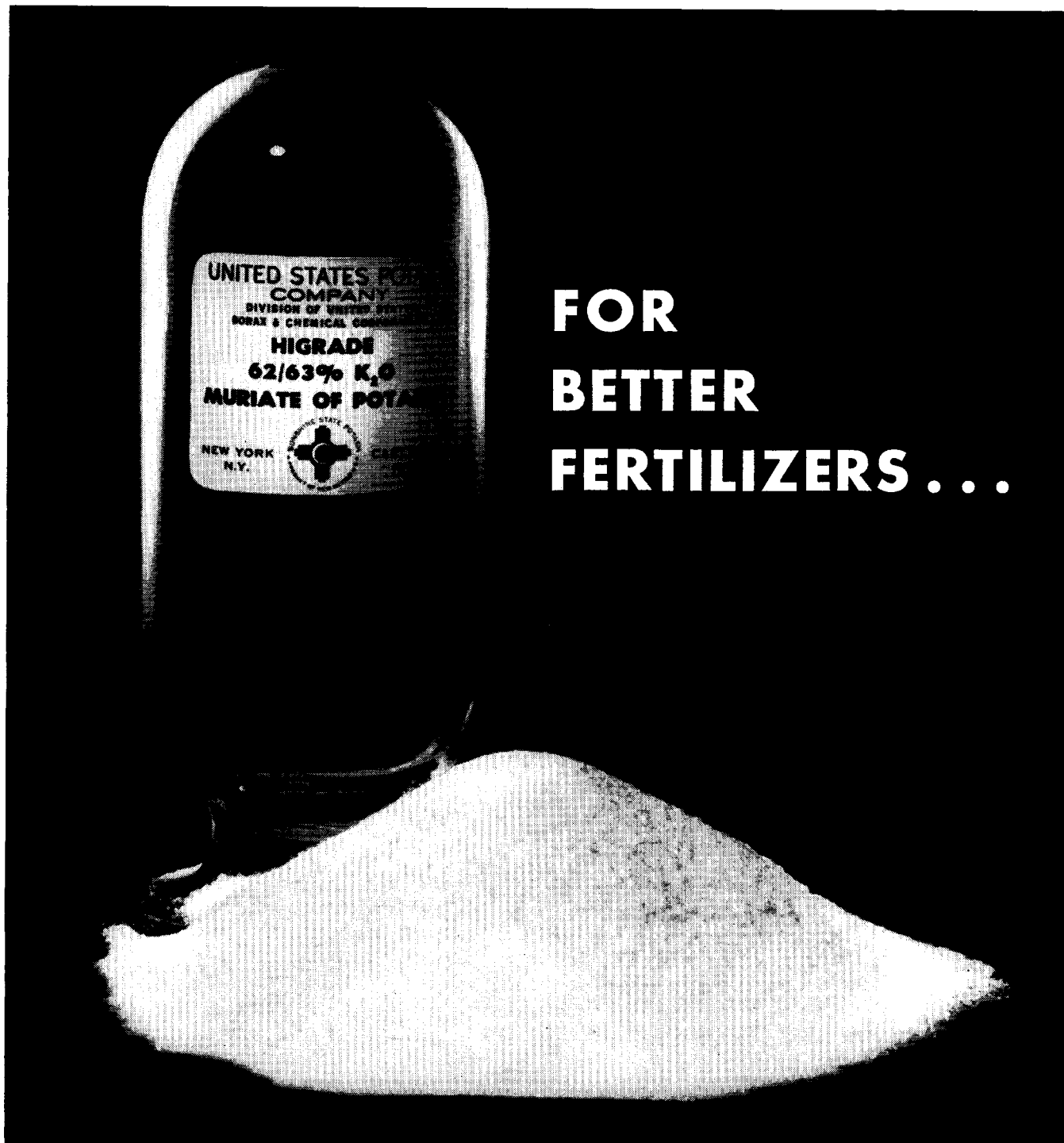
North Central Weed Control Conference will meet in Cincinnati on Dec. 3 and 4 at the Netherland Hilton. Titles and abstracts of papers to be read should be in hands of sectional chairmen by Aug. 15.

Agricultural chemistry will get special emphasis at 4th Western Regional Conference of the Chemical Institute of Canada. The meeting is set for Sept. 4 through 6 at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Major topics will be weed and pest killers and utilization of agricultural surpluses.

Midwestern committees of National Plant Food Institute will meet in Chicago during July at the Builders' Club. On July 11, the midwestern research and education committee will formulate a program of activities for the coming year. The industry advisory committee is scheduled to discuss Midwest educational activities on July 22.

- Federal judge in Brooklyn holds mass spraying with DDT at rate of 1 pound per acre is proper exercise of police power (page 496).
- Use of nitrogen solutions showed a 125% gain, says Scholl report on 1956-57 fertilizer year (page 498).
- More wettable powders foreseen as high freight rates change marketing pattern of agricultural dusts and clays (page 503).
- Congress and USDA go a few rounds on farming, but it's only a warm-up (page 505).





**FOR  
BETTER  
FERTILIZERS . . .**

## **USP'S HIGRADE MURIATE OF POTASH**

USP's Higrade muriate of potash (62/63%  $K_2O$ )—perfect for the manufacture of modern fertilizers. This superior white potash is non-caking and free-flowing throughout. Our Technical Service Department stands ready to answer any inquiries.

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# Research Newsletter . . .

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## NEW PARASITICIDE

USDA researchers say dimethoate has demonstrated "marked efficiency" in controlling nasal botflies that attack sheep. Dimethoate is the generic name for Lederle Laboratories' O,O'-dimethyl-S- $\alpha$ -mercapto-N-methylacetamidodithiophosphate (CL-12880). Injected into the sheep's muscles at a rate of 25 mg. per kg. of the animal's weight, this systemic organophosphate killed 97% of nose bots in USDA tests. No toxicity from the chemical occurred in any of the treated animals. Originally intended for cattle-grub control, dimethoate did not prove as efficient or safe as Dow's Trolene for that purpose in USDA tests. But dimethoate did outstrip Trolene in the botfly performance, giving high kill of first, second, and third instars whereas Trolene had little effect against the second and third instars.

## NEW ANGLES ON PEST CONTROL

Shell Development and Pfizer are reported interested in a toxic glycoside that shows promise against most nematodes. It was found by University of Maryland plant pathologist, Richard A. Rhode, who isolated it from asparagus, a plant that is resistant to nematode attack. It is effective, whether applied to soil in a water drench or to leaves of affected plants, against all of the half dozen nematodes tested so far, including a burrowing nematode similar to the one that affects Florida citrus. Dr. Rhode has a \$5000 grant from Shell Development and a \$10,000 one from the Rockefeller Foundation to pursue his work.

Nontoxic silica dusts (powdered silica aerogels of the Syloid group) are proving effective cockroach controls at University of California. Sprinkled on the floor, these dusts adsorb protective, water-retaining coating of roaches walking through them, killing roaches by desiccation. Because action is nonchemical, researchers believe roaches may not develop immunity.

Timing of application is the important angle in use of DDT to control lygus bugs on lima beans. USDA researchers at Whittier, Calif., found yields increased significantly when DDT was applied just after blossoming or two weeks later when pods appeared.

Plant nutrition may be key to insect control, according to preliminary results reported by USDA scientists at Beltsville. Spider mites attacking pole lima beans were easy to kill with malathion when plants had enough N, P, and K for optimum growth. Mites on plants that had too much or too little of the three nutrients for optimum yield were difficult to control. (See June Ag and Food, page 411, for similar results at University of Wisconsin.)



- No potentiation among five organic phosphate pesticides observed at tolerance levels, so this phenomenon presents no health hazard at present (page 514).
- Steers, lambs, and hogs fed endrin for 12 weeks showed little tendency to deposit endrin in body tissues (page 516); but dairy cows fed endrin gave milk containing small amounts of it at all levels of intake (page 518).
- Diazinon residues are short-lived compared

to residues of other insecticides and acaricides on citrus fruits (page 521).

- Mild steel and stainless steel satisfactorily resist corrosion caused by liquid mixed fertilizers (page 524).